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THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ONGAR

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1943.

FYFIELD, Ongar.

The Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen of the Ongar Rural District Counci.

I have the pleasure to submit my Annual Report on the Health of the District for 1943.

This is, in general terms, satisfactory though there has been a slight rise in the Death Rate.

The returns include the deaths of four Enemy Airmen.

Incidence of Infectious Disease has been moderate and it is noteworthy that cases of Diphtheria show a marked decrease, due, undoubtedly, to the protective immunisation which has been and is still going on.

Improvements have been made in water supplies to dairies with good results.

At Blackmore insanitary conditions have stressed the urgency of measures already decided on for the satisfactory drainage of this Village - too long delayed.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

A.S.DAVID

M.O.H.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1943.

APPENDIX

1943

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres, 47,712.
Population 1921 Census 10,140.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTERS.

Average height above Sea level 200 ft.
Preponderating character of soil, London Clay
Rivers, Roding and tributaries.
Number of inhabitated houses 1943 - 4233
Rateable Value 1943 £57,692.
Sum represented by a penny rate, £232.
Chief occupation of Inhabitants, Agriculture.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		M	F	
Live Births	Legitimate	107	114	230
	Illegitimate	5	4	
Stillbirths				12
Rate per 1000 births. ...				52
Birth Rate per 1000 of population				17
Deaths (all ages) 162				
Death rate per 1000				13

Deaths from Childbirth 0 (Sepsis 0
(Other causes 0
Per 1000 births 0

Deaths of infants under 1 year, 13
Rate per 1000 births 56 (Legitimate 49.8
(Illegitimate 222

Deaths from Measles 0
" " Whooping Cough 1
" " Epidemic Diarrhoea 0
" " Cancer 28

No cause of sickness has been specially noteworthy during the year.

Poor Law Relief is given to the amount of £1500 yearly.

HOSPITALS.

The Ongar War Memorial Hospital is in active operation and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council are ex-officio members of the Committee.

Tuberculosis Many cases are sent to Sanatoriums provided by the County Council.

Maternity } No provision. Ongar Hospital 4 beds.
Children }

Fever Cases Patients are sent under agreement to the Chelmsfors Isolation Hospital.

Small Pox Patients go to Orsett Hospital.

The Council possesses a Motor Ambulance, which is freely used.

Institutional provision for unmarried Mothers.

None.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

A Child Welfare Centre is held fortnightly in the Parish Room, Abridge, and another at Chipping Ongar was opened in April 1927. Clinics are held in connection with these.

Day Nurseries. None.

School Clinics Under arrangement.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries. None. Patients attend at Epping.

Venereal Disease. Patients go to the Chelmsford and London Hospitals.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health. A.S.DAVID, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. Part time. Contribution to salary by Essex County Council.

Sanitary Inspector. P.R.B.PEARCE, C.R.S.I. Wholetime. Contribution to salary by Essex County Council.

A Health Visitor is maintained by the Essex County Council.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

General. A Nurse is maintained in Ongar by voluntary subscriptions. The six District Nurses do a good deal of nursing apart from maternity work. Grants are made by the County to the Nursing Associations.

Measles. In case of an epidemic the Medical Officer of Health has power to employ a temporary nurse for the care of patients in their homes. Occasional severely complicated cases go to the Isolation Hospital.

Chemical Work. No special arrangement. The Medical Officer of Health examines samples of water for fitness. Bacteriological examinations are done by the Counties Public Health Laboratory.

SANITWRY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

Parishes supplied entirely or mostly by Company's mains are:-

Bobbingworth
Chipping Ongar
Fyfield
Greensted
High Ongar
Kelvedon Hatch
Lambourne
Moreton
Stondon Massey
Stanford Rivers
Shelley
Stapleford Abbotts
Theydon Mount
Willingale

The Council have their own scheme for the supply of water to the parishes of Blackmore and Doddinghurst and Willingale. During 1943 nine new Consumers have been supplied from the Blackmore and Doddinghurst main and five from the Willingale main.

The supply is constant and satisfactory. The water is derived from deep wells in the chalk at Sawbridgeworth and on analysis has been found pure.

The Parishes of:-

Abbess Roding
Berners Roding
Norton Mandeville
High Laver (parts)
Navestock (parts)
Little Laver
Stapleford Tawney
Shellow Bowells

are mostly dependent on shallow wells for supply. Isolated cottages often have no well and either use surface water near to hand or obtain water by consent of neighbours at some distance. There are 168 such cases or roughly 7% of all cottages.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The disposal plant for modern treatment of Ongar sewerage is in working order at Stanford Rivers and recent tests have shewn efficient working purification.

These works receive sewerage from Chipping Ongar, Shelley, High Ongar, and a large part of Stanford Rivers with facilities for drainage of Stondon Massey and Kelvedon Hatch by further extensions.

The Abridge Sewage Outfall Works continue to provide satisfactory purification.

At Moreton the sewage is treated by continuous filtration through clinker beds, and is quite often satisfactory, though this village should be connected to Ongar sewer.

At Blackmore the old contact beds are still in existence. There is no doubt that new works are required here and the matter has been referred to the Engineer, who has prepared a scheme which is now before the Council. Renewed complaints make this matter one of urgency.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

The general policy where there are no sewers is to provide houses with pail closets and to convert existing privies to pail closets.

Approximate number of privies with open middens	0
" " " " closed "	0
" " pail closets	1600
" " water closets...	800

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION

Chipping Ongar, Greensted, High Ongar and Shelley house refuse is collected fortnightly, the refuse beling disposed of by controlled tipping in a disused gravel pit. Ashbins (moveable) are used, there being no fixed receptacle. The

The contents are removed by covered van.

Monthly collection at Blackmore, Doddinghurst and Lambourne. Other parts of the district a monthly collection of salvage.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA

A large number of inspections are made jointly with the Sanitary Inspector, whose report is appended:-

Joint inspection of premises:-

Of Houses...	43
Of Schools..	6
Of Water Supplies.	50
Of Infectious Disease and Contacts.. ...	49
Of Dairies..	250
Of Bakehouses	120

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action.

SCHOOLS

These have been visited and found in good sanitary order.

RAG FLOCK ACTS

There are no premises in the area for manufacture of rag flock.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1937.

N-umber of new houses erected during 1937 -

(1) By the Local Authority 0
(2) By other bodies or persons (Temporarily Licensed) 18

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

(1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 29
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 43

(2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 0
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose... 0

(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 0

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES -

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority and their Officers 0

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR -

A-Proceedings under sections 17, 18, and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:

(a) By Owners 0

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners 0

B-Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:

(a) By Owners 0

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners 0

C-Proceedings under sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... 0

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders... ... 0

D-Proceedings under section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 0

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit... 0

4. HOUSING ACT, 1935, OVERCROWDING.

(a)(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 80

(2) Number of families dwelling therein ... 100

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 500

(b)Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.... 0

(c)(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 0

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases 0

INSPECTION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

A general supervision is exercised over Dairies and Cowsheds as to cleanliness and construction. Milk for sale is also tested for cleanliness. Many samples have been taken during the year.

A good deal of attention has been given to the water supply of dairies, which in some instances have been made satisfactory.

The Essex County Council have taken samples of Milk for biological examination for tubercle from 86 farms in the district. Eight of these gave a positive result or 9 per cent.

103 Samples examined for bacterial tests in connection with supply to children in schools.

Meat.

Inspections made daily as routine work.

Surrenders of unsound meat during 1943. 0

Shops are supervised as to cleanliness generally.

No public slaughter house exists.

Number of private slaughter houses in use - 31st December, 1943:

Registered	6
Licensed..	11

Also 1 licensed Knackers Yard.

Bakehouses.

These have all been inspected and found to be in satisfactory state.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The year has been characterized by average incidence of infectious disease. The Schick test has been used and immunization carried out on children coming to the Ongar Children's Homes, and the West Ham School, Fyfield.

Diphtheria antitoxin is provided by the Council and freely used on occasion.

Pathological and Bacteriological specimens are sent to the E.M.S. Hospital, Epping. Examinations are paid for by the County Council.

Cases of infectious diseases are investigated personally by the M.O.H. or conjointly with the S.I.

Scarlet Fever cases are now increasingly allowed to be nursed at home instead of being removed to Hospital.

An epidemic of Influenza occurs every winter and is usually mild in type.

No provision is made for the cleansing of verminous persons the want is felt occasionally, especially for persons affected by scabies.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1943

Disease	Number notified	Sent to Hospital	Deaths
Small Pox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	32	32	-
Diphtheria	3	3	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever	-	-	-
" Pyrexia	5	5	-
Pneumonia	19	13	6
Erysipelas	2	1	-

Cases arranged according to ages:-

0-1	0	4-5	3	20-35	8
1-2	0	5-10	18	35-45	2
2-3	0	10-15	9	45-65	4
3-4	1	15-20	2	65 & over	1

TUBERCULOSIS (NEW CASES).

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary.		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0					1			
1								
5		1	1	5				
15	1			2				
25	1	2				1		
35	1			1	1			
45					2			
55								
65 and upwards								
Totals	3	3	1	8	4	1		

Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations 1925. No action.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62. No Action.

Tuberculosis Schemes. Essex County Scheme in operation.

Venereal Disease. Patients sent to Chelmsford and London Hospital.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

A Health Visitor is provided by the County Council and resides at Ongar.

Six district nurse midwives reside in the district, and others from outside practise in the area.

Infant Welfare Centres are held at Abridge and at Ongar.

Puerperal Fever is rare. No death in 1943.

Opthalmia Neonatorum. No cases notified in 1943.

Measles. No death in 1943.

Whooping Cough. One death from this disease.

Poliomylitis. No case in 1943.

A. S. DAVID.

Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Inspector's Report for 1943 is not made owing to war conditions.